

Maine Charter School Commission

Request for Proposal and Charter School Application FOR SCHOOL OPENING 2017

Question and Answer

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Clarifying Question RFP 2017

Must a charter school provide transportation to all students?

Answer

[Title 20-A, Chapter 112:§2412. Operations 4.D.](#)

4. D. A public charter school must have a plan that describes how the school will provide transportation for its students who reside in the school's catchment area and what assistance, if any, it will provide to meet the transportation needs of its students who reside outside the catchment area of the school.

and

[Title 20-A, Chapter 215:§5401. Transportation 1-7](#)

The transportation of public school students shall be governed as follows. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

1. Municipal school units. The superintendent of schools in a municipal school unit shall, with the approval of the school board, provide transportation for elementary school students and public preschool students a part of or the whole distance to and from the nearest suitable elementary school. The municipality may provide transportation for secondary level students. [2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §2 (AMD) .]

2. School administrative district. The superintendent of schools in a school administrative district shall, with the approval of the school board, provide transportation for:

A. Elementary school students and public preschool students a part of or the whole distance to and from the nearest suitable school; and [2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §3 (AMD).]

B. Secondary school students a part of or the whole distance to the district's secondary school or to and from the secondary school in the school administrative unit or units with which the district has contracted for secondary school privileges. The school board may provide transportation for secondary school students attending other secondary schools. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).][2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §3 (AMD) .]

3. Community school district. The community school district school committee shall either:

A. Instruct the superintendent of schools to provide transportation for elementary and secondary school students and public preschool students all or a part of the way to and from the nearest suitable school; or [2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §4 (AMD).]

B. Provide transportation in accordance with a written agreement with the member school administrative units. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).][2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §4 (AMD) .]

3-A. Waiver for transportation of public preschool students. The commissioner shall waive the requirement for school administrative units to provide transportation for public preschool students. [2009, c. 213, Pt. C, §1 (NEW) .]

4. Special education students. Special education students shall be provided transportation:

A. As provided by chapter 301; or [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

B. To and from classes. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).][1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW) .]

5. Secondary school students residing on islands. A school administrative unit shall pay transportation charges over regular transportation lines for secondary school students who reside on islands if those islands are:

A. Within the school administrative unit; [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

B. Without a secondary school; and [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

C. Served by regular transportation lines. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

The charges shall not exceed regular fares. The transportation line and the school board may by agreement establish school fares for these students at less than the regular fare. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW) .]

6. Temporary residents and residents on state-owned property. The commissioner shall reimburse a school administrative unit for approved transportation of students who reside on state-owned property located in towns of less than 100 residents or who are temporary residents, if those students reside more than 2 miles from the school.

A. A superintendent, with the approval of the school board, shall report these students to the commissioner. The report shall include any other information the commissioner requires. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

B. The commissioner may direct the unit to provide transportation or board if transportation is deemed inadvisable. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).]

C. On receiving a bill of expenses for transportation or board from a school administrative unit, the commissioner shall, in December, reimburse it for those expenses from the department appropriation for that purpose. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW).][1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW) .]

7. Remote location. If a student resides in a location remote from and inaccessible to schools or public highways, the student's parents shall be responsible for providing transportation to a public highway or paying board for the student within walking distance of a school. Failure of the parent to provide transportation or board shall be considered a violation of the truancy law. [1981, c. 693, §§5, 8 (NEW) .]